



THE
NORWICH
SOCIETY

Views report 2020

An assessment of the views from River Wensum bridges
and of the strategic views of the city centre.



Introduction

This report has been prepared by the Norwich Society's Civic Environment Committee. The subject of views was previously addressed by the Committee in a report "*Taking the long view*" published in 2008. For this project we decided to consider two groups of views.

The first is the views from bridges over the river Wensum. We examined recording the views in all directions, i.e away from the river as well as along the river, but after some experimentation decided to record only the views upstream and downstream. Again after some experimentation we settled on the recording point being the centre of the bridge.

The second group is the views defined as strategic views by Norwich City Council for the purposes of the development plan, currently the Norwich Local Plan. Details of the current local plan documents can be found at https://www.norwich.gov.uk/info/20199/local_plan.

Policy DM3 – Design principles states that significant weight will be given to the following design principles in assessing development proposals:

b) Long views

The design of new buildings must pay careful attention to the need to protect and enhance the significant long views of the major landmarks identified in Appendix 8 and those identified in conservation area appraisals.

Supplementary text

3.7 The distinctive topography of Norwich, with its two river valleys and sometimes steep, often wooded valley sides, offers the opportunity for long views across the city from elevated viewpoints. These views contribute greatly to appreciation of the townscape and provide a sense of place. The policy does not seek to protect all views from all places. Rather it seeks to manage and control development which could affect the key long views identified in appendix 8 and those which are identified in conservation area appraisals.

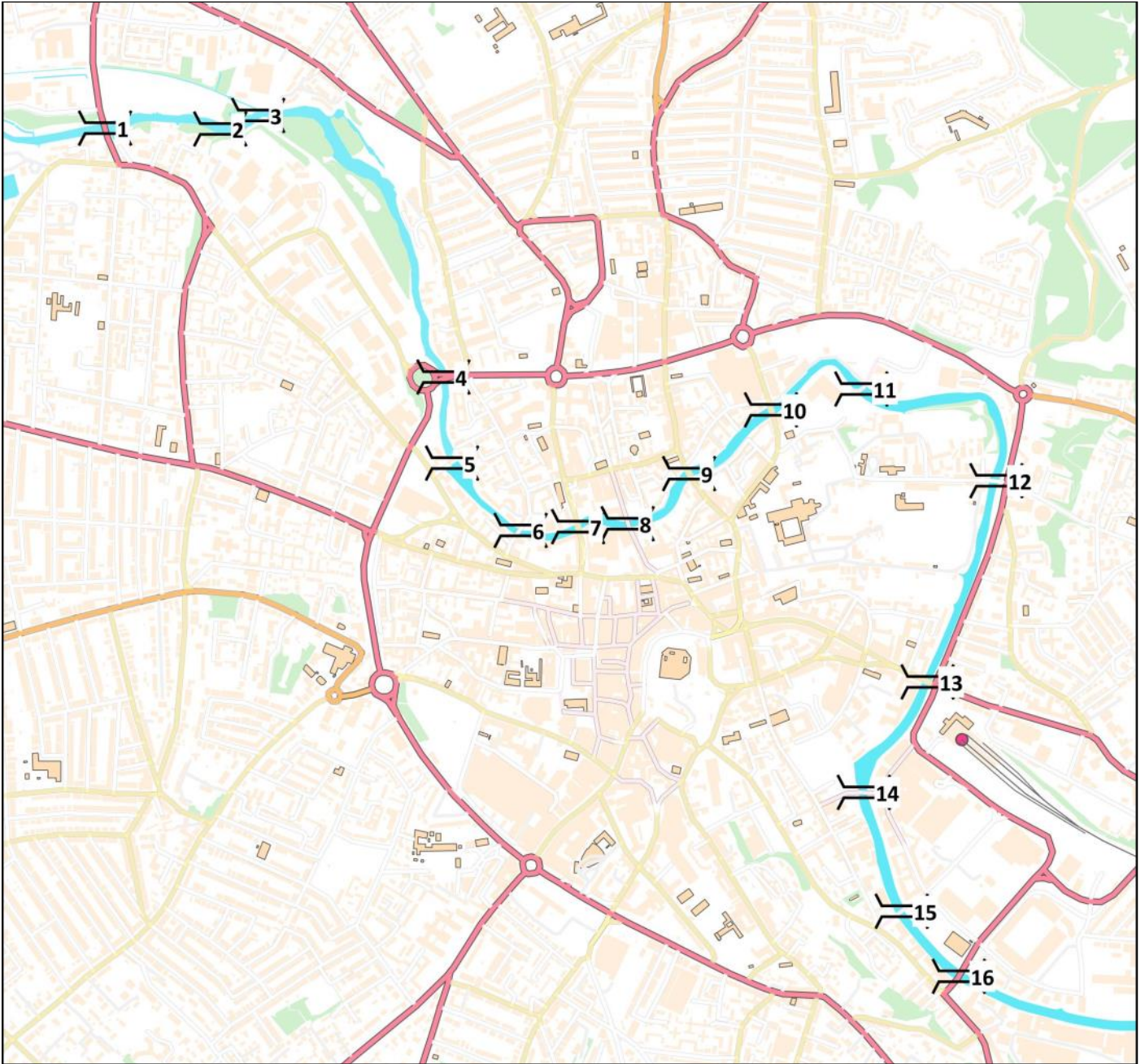
The long views identified in Appendix 8 are those shown on the map and list on page 20. For the views towards the city centre from the three strategic viewpoints on the north-east side of the city we aimed to record the view with the City Hall clocktower at the centre of the image.

It seems to the Society that if the City Council wishes, through planning policies, to protect what it regards as significant long views, it should also, as owner of the land concerned in most cases, seek to ensure that growth of trees and other vegetation does not prevent the views from being actually enjoyed by the public. The Society welcomes the support given by the City Council to the Friends of Kett's Heights in restoring the view from Kett's Heights in recent years, and also the inclusion by the Mousehold Heath Conservators in their revised Management Plan, adopted in 2019, of a specific policy aimed at ensuring the protection of the view from St. James's Hill.

In all cases we have recorded the views both in summer, when trees are in leaf, and in winter, after leaf-fall. The differences in some cases are quite striking.

All maps use a base of Ordnance Survey Open Data, Crown Copyright and database right 2020.

River Wensum bridges



- | | | | |
|---|-----------------------|----|--------------------|
| 1 | Mile Cross Bridge | 9 | Fye Bridge |
| 2 | Dolphin Bridge | 10 | Whitefirars Bridge |
| 3 | Marriott's Way Bridge | 11 | Jarrold Bridge |
| 4 | St. Crispin's Bridge | 12 | Bishop Bridge |
| 5 | New Mills | 13 | Foundry Bridge |
| 6 | Coslany Bridge | 14 | Julian Bridge |
| 7 | Duke's Palace Bridge | 15 | Novi Sad Bridge |
| 8 | St. George's Bridge | 16 | Carrow Bridge |

1: Mile Cross Bridge



Mile Cross Bridge was a new bridge built, along with Mile Cross Road, in 1923, as part of an unemployment relief scheme.

downstream summer



downstream winter



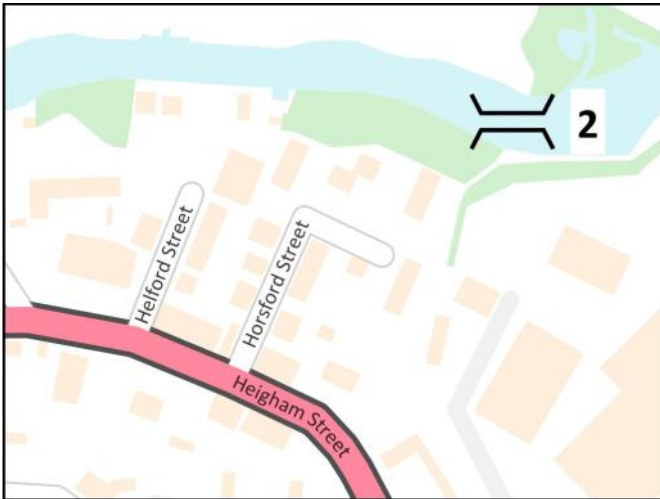
upstream summer



upstream winter



2: Dolphin Bridge



Dolphin Bridge was built in 1909 and replaced a former ferry crossing. It serves a footpath and cycle route leading from the Dolphin Inn on Heigham Street to Drayton Road.

downstream summer



downstream winter



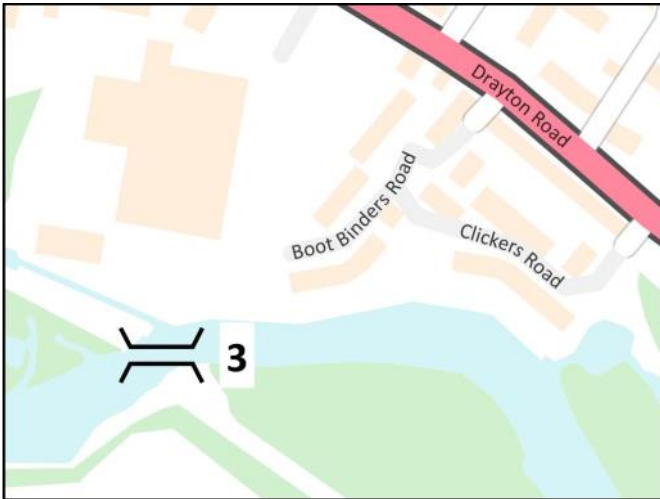
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3: Marriott's Way Bridge



This metal footbridge carries the Marriott's Way cycle and foot path over the river, and was built on the site of the former railway bridge.

downstream summer



downstream winter



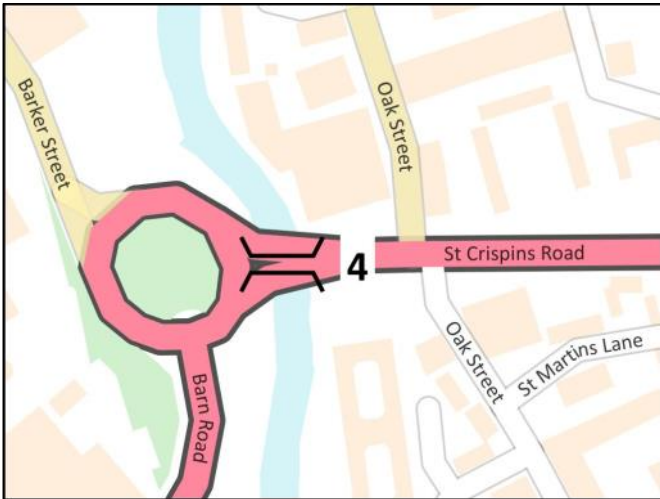
upstream summer



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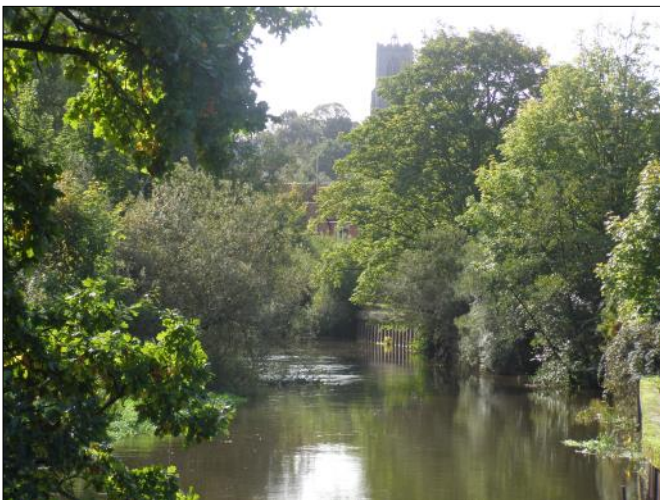


4: St. Crispin's Bridge



Actually two bridges, the elegant iron southern bridge was built in 1882 as the City Station bridge, for the nearby railway station. The northern, functional, concrete structure dates from 1972, and was built as part of the routing of the inner ring road through this area.

downstream summer



downstream winter



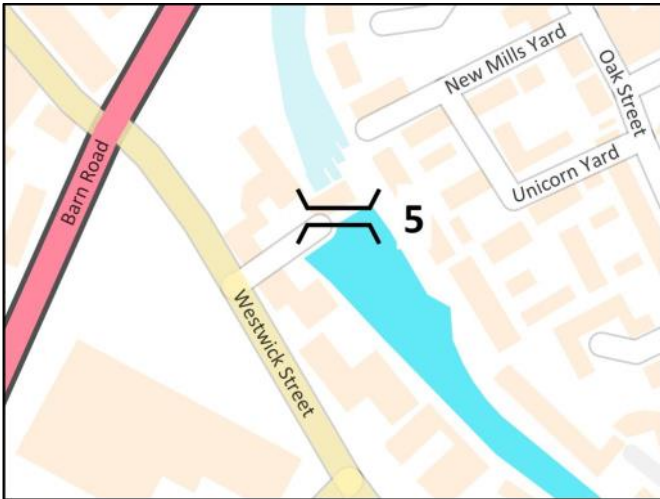
upstream summer



upstream winter



5: New Mills



Before the Norman Conquest this was the site of a mill used for grinding corn and fulling (cleaning cloth). Later it was used to pump drinking water from the river to Market Cross. Inadequate management of sewage contributed to the spread of disease in medieval England. It was not until the industrial age of the 19th century that a proper solution was found and the sewage pumping station was built in 1898.

downstream summer



downstream winter



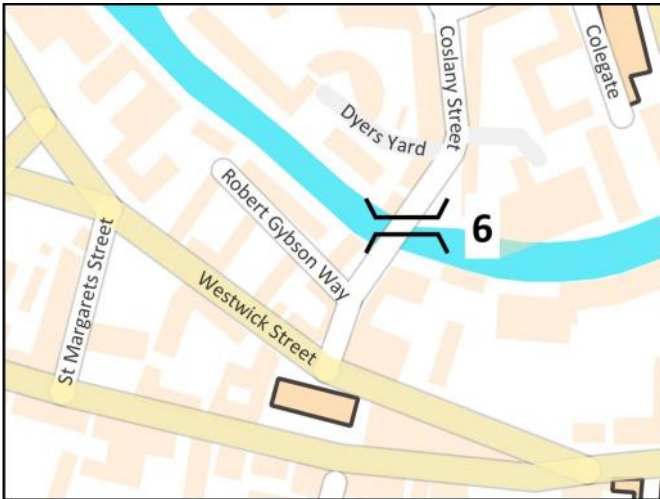
upstream summer



upstream winter



6: Coslany Bridge



Coslany (St Miles) Bridge is the site of two 13th century bridges crossing islands in the centre of the river along the line of what had been a Roman road. The current iron bridge dates from 1804 and is the earliest iron bridge in the city.

downstream summer



downstream winter



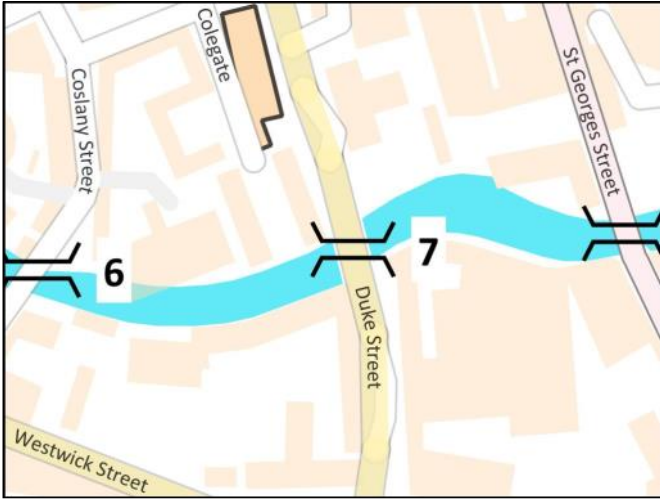
upstream summer



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7: Duke's Palace Bridge



So called because it is near the site of the Duke of Norfolk's palace built in the 16th century. This, however, is one of the more modern river crossings. There was a bridge in 1822 but, when Duke Street was widened, the bridge was replaced with the current concrete structure in 1972. Part of the earlier bridge, saved by the Norwich Society, now straddles the entrance to the Castle Quarter car park.

downstream summer



downstream winter



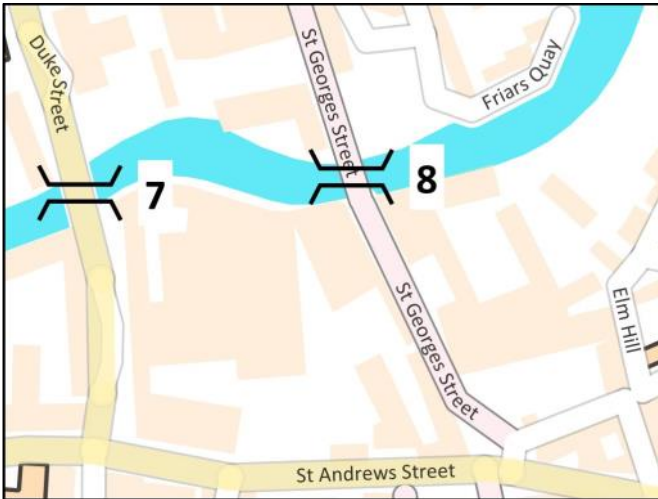
upstream summer



upstream winter



8: St. George's Bridge



Designed by Sir John Soane, the architect of the Bank of England, and opened in 1784. In 1930 the City wanted to widen the street and the bridge was threatened, but was saved after a campaign by the Norwich Society.

downstream summer



downstream winter



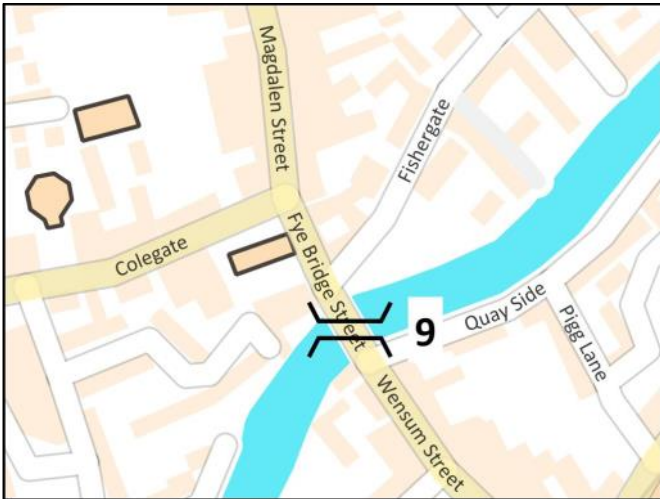
upstream summer



upstream winter



9: Fye Bridge



This was a timber bridge until the early 15th century when it was replaced by a stone structure. It was traditionally the place where scolding women were placed in the ducking stool, and is reputedly the place where witches were drowned. It was reconstructed in the 1930s, again to provide work for the unemployed.

downstream summer



downstream winter



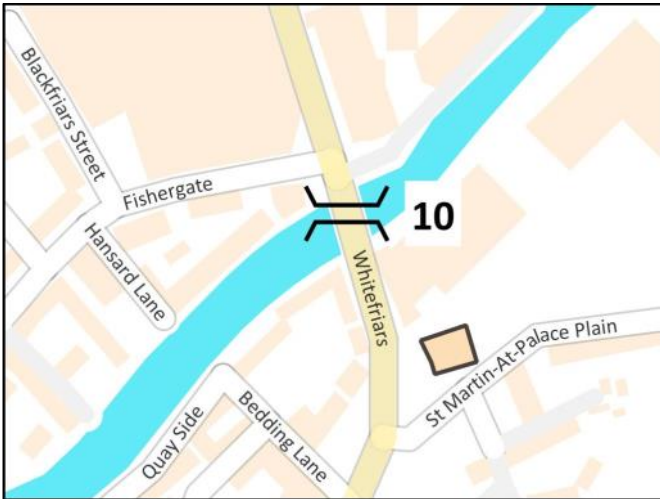
upstream summer



upstream winter



10: Whitefriars Bridge



This is the site of the earliest recorded bridge in Norwich, dating from 1106. During Kett's Rebellion in 1549 it was destroyed by the Earl of Warwick to try and prevent the rebels from entering Norwich. Following river widening in 1924 to alleviate flood risk, the current bridge was built in 1925 as part of a scheme to alleviate unemployment.

downstream summer



downstream winter



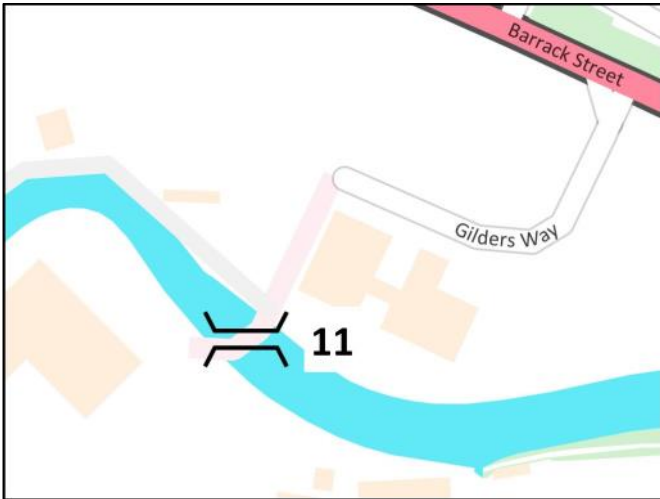
upstream summer



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11: Jarrold Bridge



The newest bridge over the river, opened in 2012, the sweeping curve of this unique, curved, double cantilever structure is defined by the site and clearances.

downstream summer



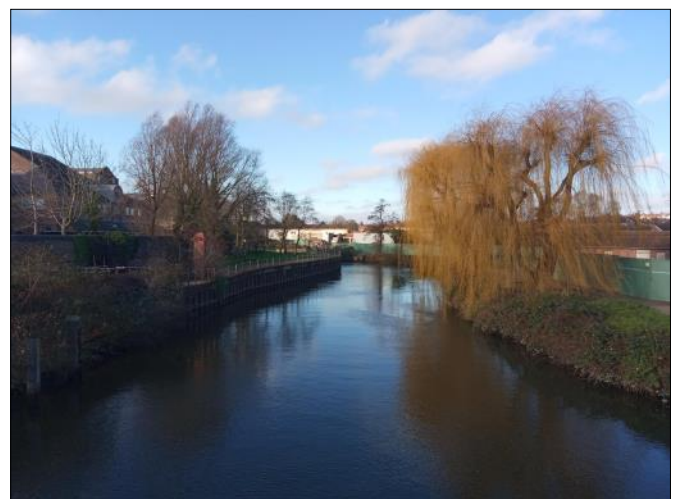
downstream winter



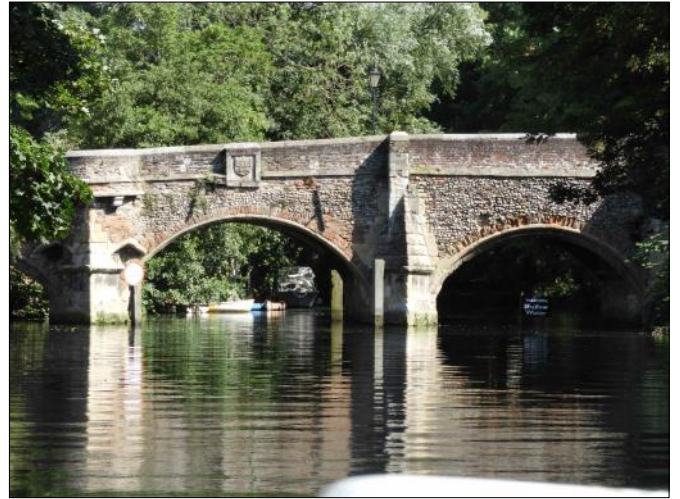
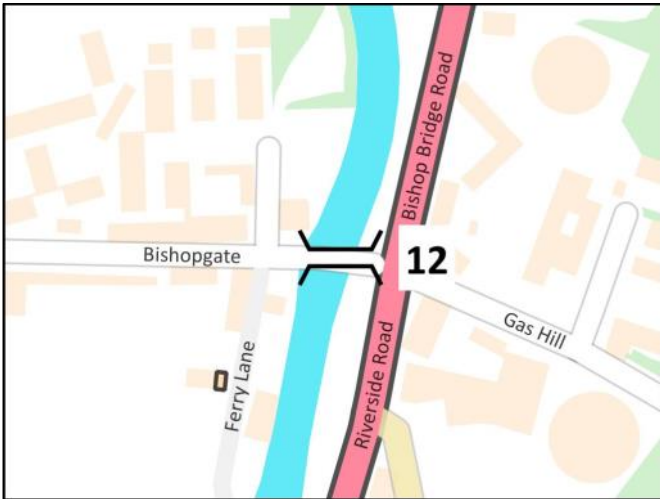
upstream summer



upstream winter



12: Bishop Bridge



Norwich does not have a complete circle of defensive walls, with reliance also on the river and occasional towers for defence. Bishop Bridge, which formerly had a fortified gatehouse, is said to date from about 1340 replacing an earlier stone and timber structure, and is the oldest surviving bridge in Norwich. A threat to replace the structure in the 1920s led to the formation of the Norwich Society.

downstream summer



downstream winter



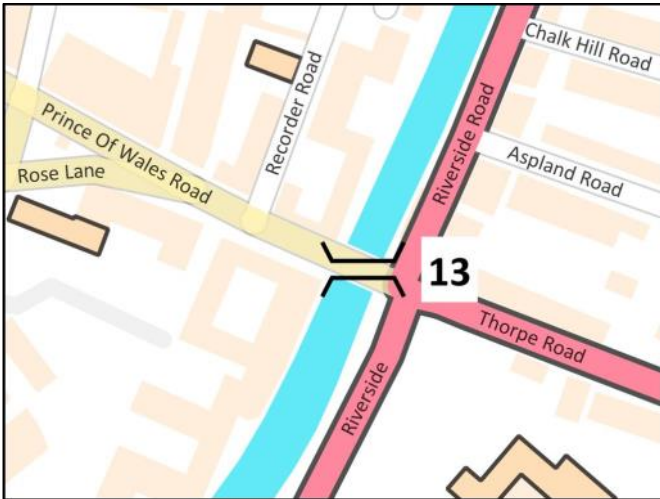
upstream summer



upstream winter



13: Foundry Bridge



There has been a bridge on this site since 1811. With the coming of the railway to the nearby Thorpe station and increasing industrial and residential development, a more sturdy bridge was required and the present bridge dates from 1884.

downstream summer



downstream winter



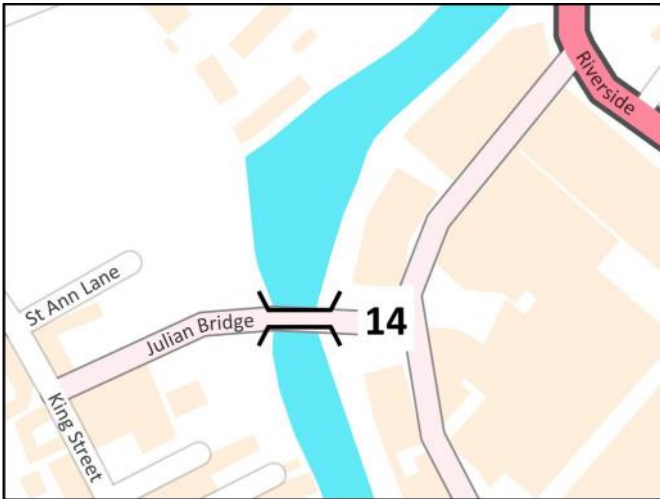
upstream summer



upstream winter



14: Julian Bridge



This opening foot and cycle bridge, opened for use in 2009, is named after the Anchorite “Mother Julian” of Norwich who was born in 1342 and lived in a cell attached to St. Julian’s Church in King Street.

downstream summer



downstream winter



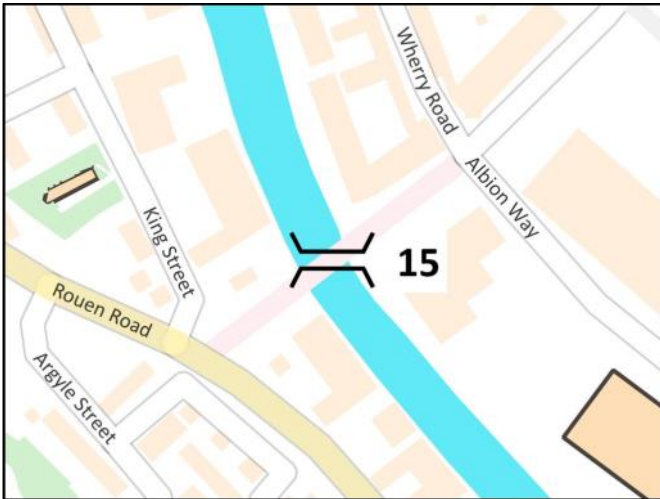
upstream summer



upstream winter



15: Novi Sad Bridge



This opening foot and cycle bridge, opened for use in 2001, is named in commemoration of the twinning arrangement between Norwich and Novi Sad, in Serbia.

downstream summer



downstream winter



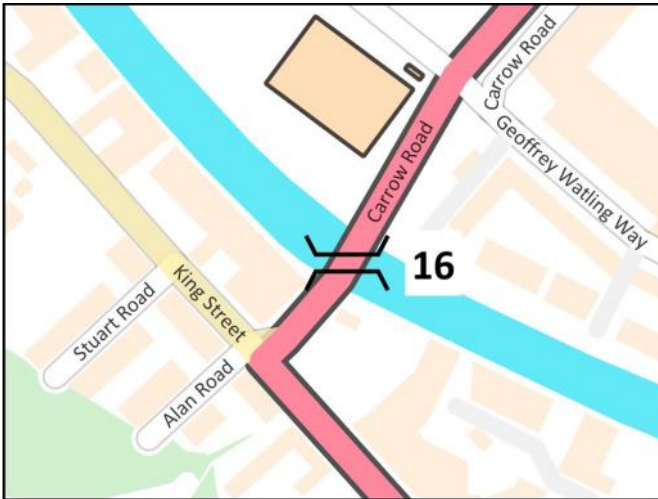
upstream summer



upstream winter



16: Carrow Bridge



In the 1830s the City Council had plans to promote Norwich as a port for sea-going ships to reduce its dependence on Great Yarmouth. The original fixed Carrow Bridge was replaced with a double bascule lifting bridge to allow ships to pass. After WW1 a new bridge was needed and work started in 1920 as part of an unemployment scheme. The bridge was opened in 1923.

downstream summer



downstream winter



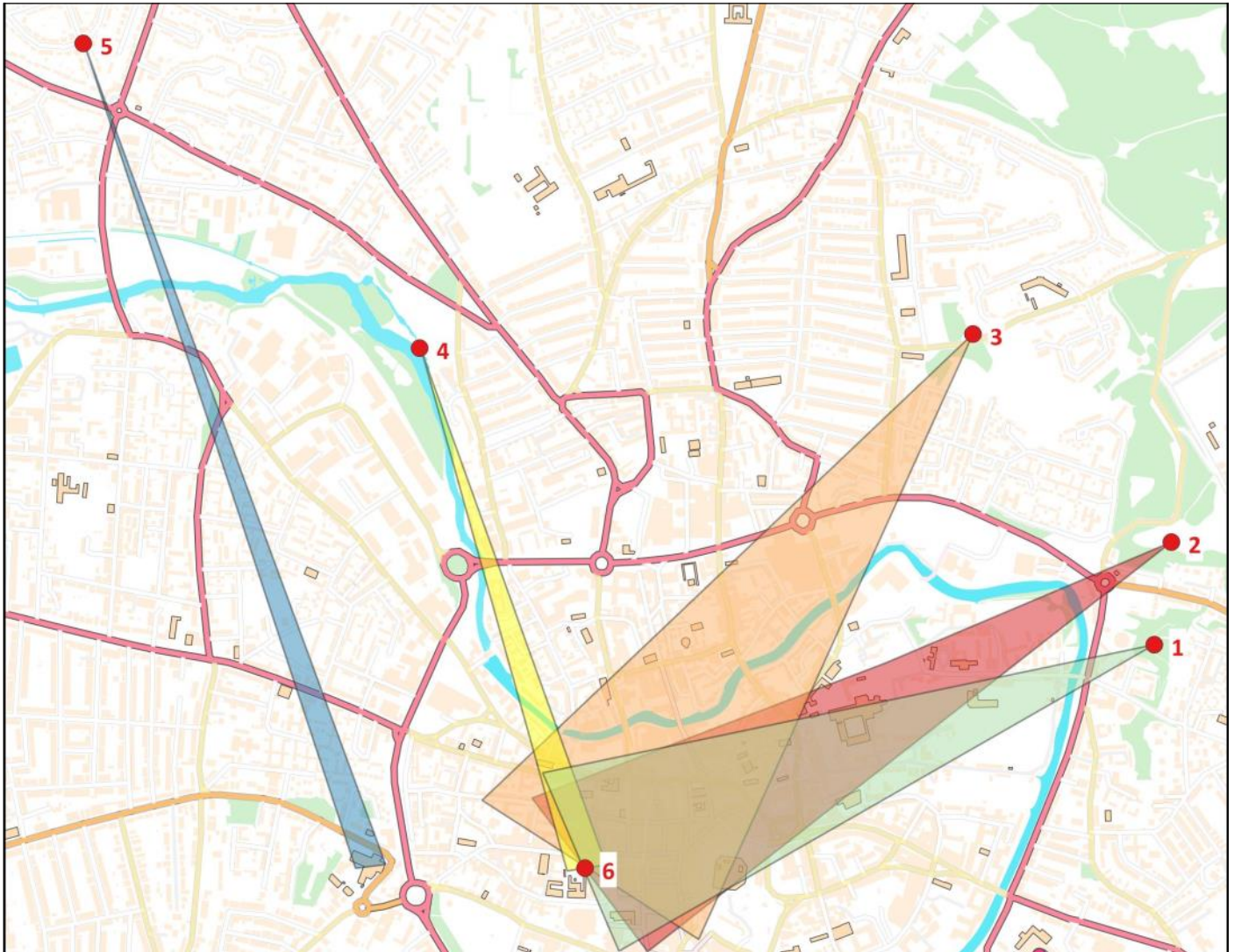
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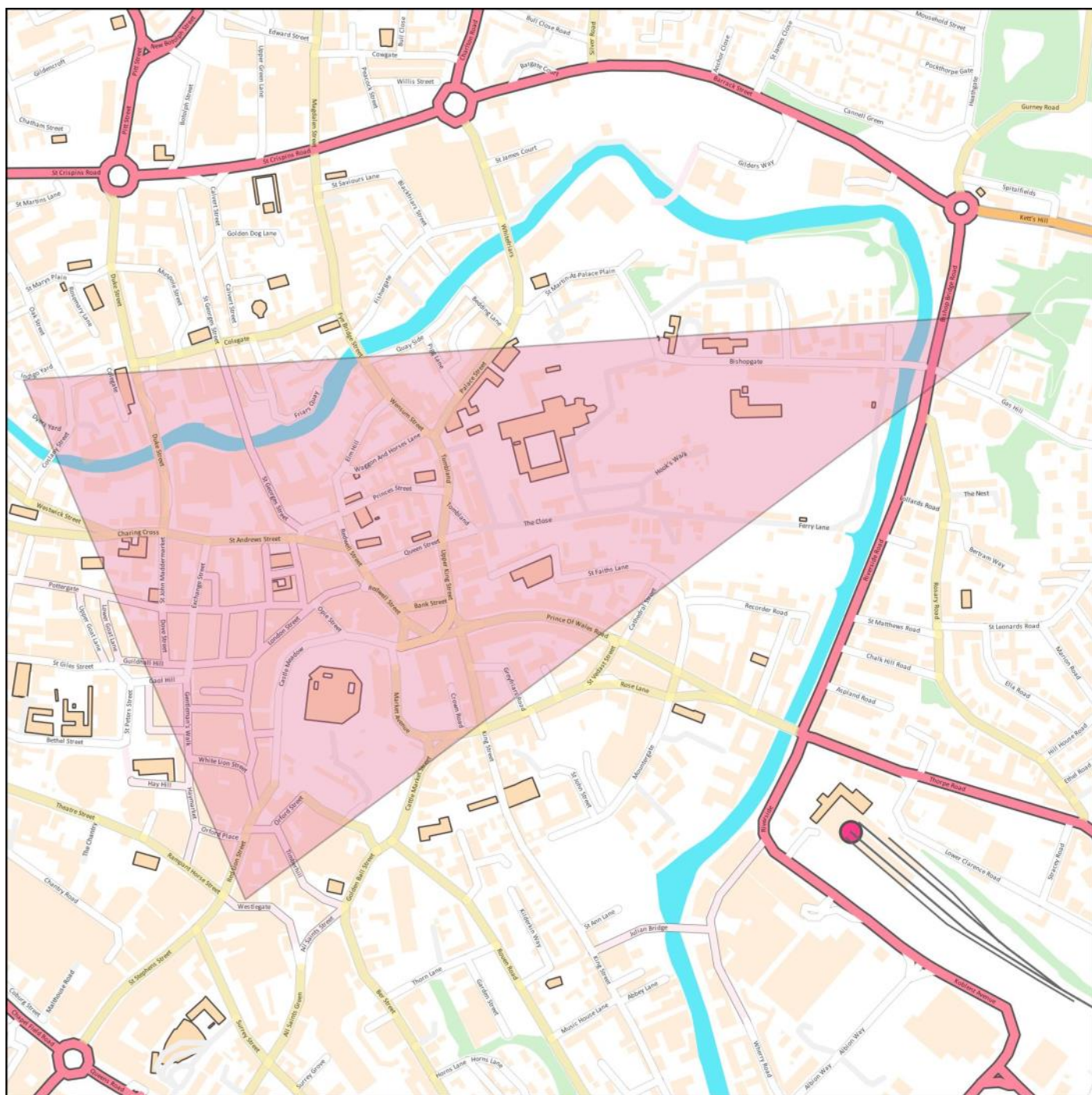


Long view viewpoints (shown by red dot on map)



- 1 Kett's Heights towards city centre
- 2 St. James's Hill towards city centre
- 3 Mousehold Avenue towards city centre
- 4 Wensum Park towards City Hall (no 6 on map)
- 5 Mile Cross towards the Catholic Cathedral

1 : Kett's Heights



Photographer location : to right (north) side of panorama in frame. Image centred on City Hall clocktower.

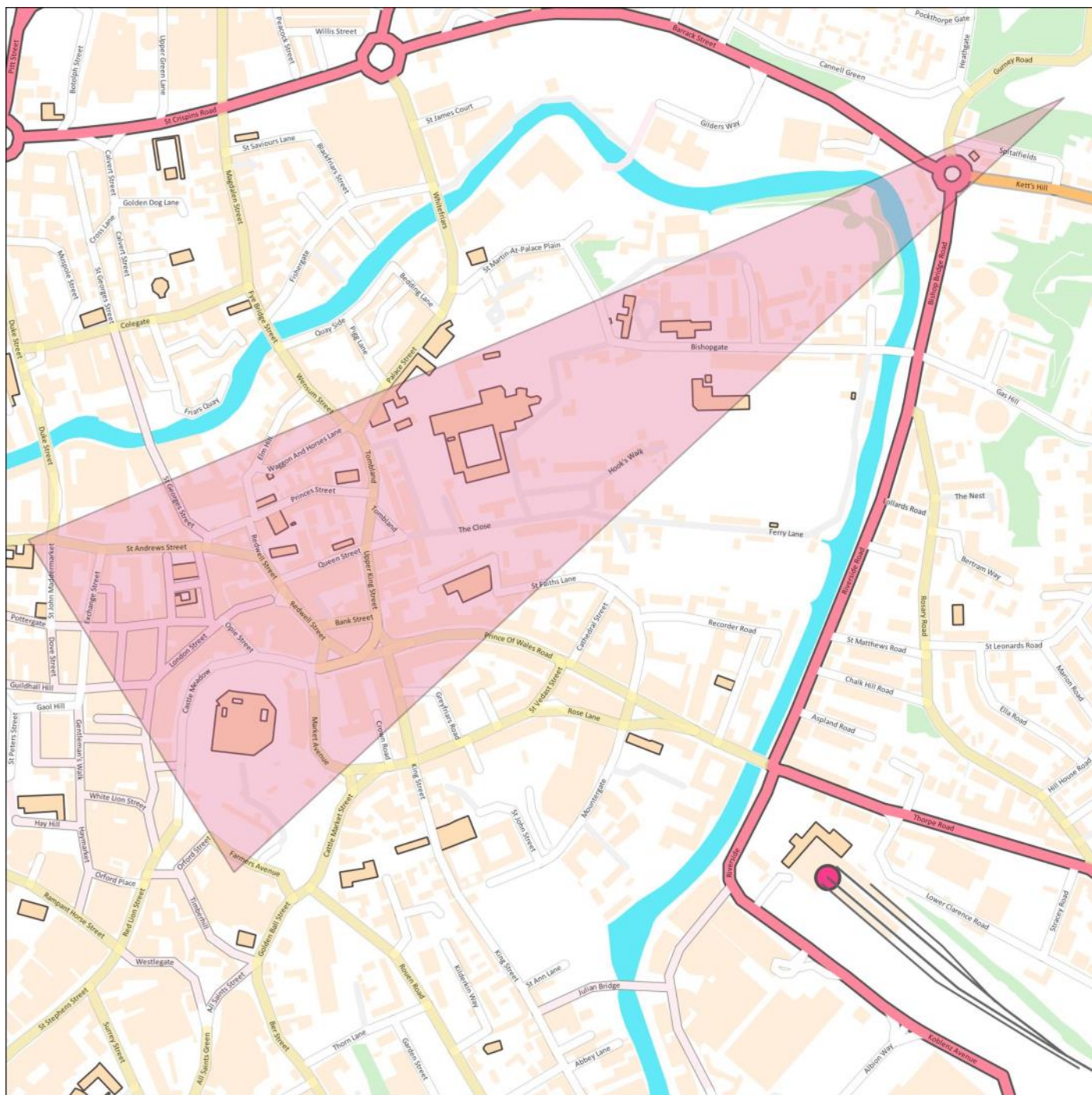


Summer ↑

Winter ↓



2 : St James's Hill



Photographer location : behind Mottram Memorial. Image centred on City Hall clocktower.

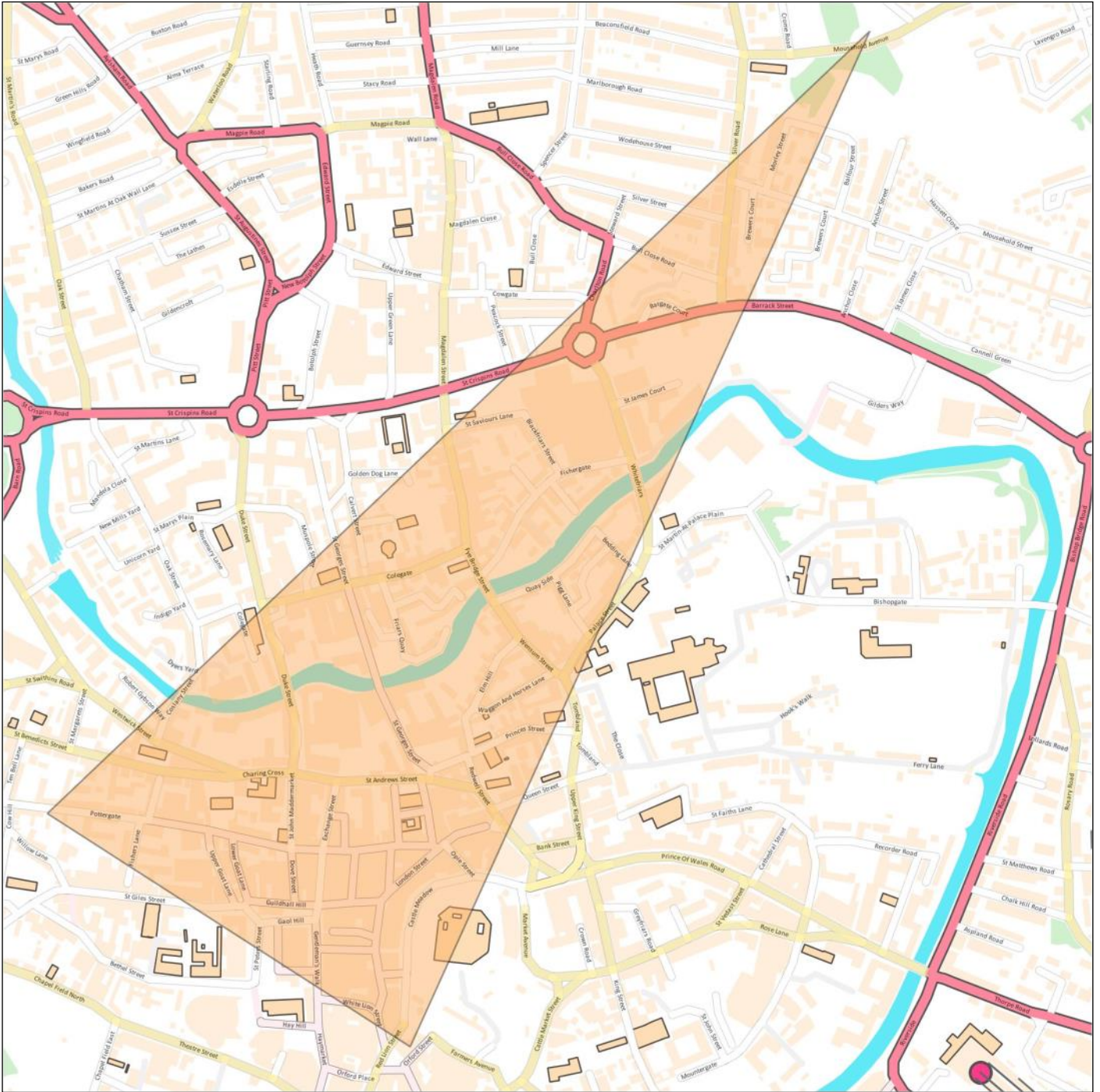


Summer ↑

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3 : Mousehold Avenue



Photographer location : at south-western corner of site, top of steps leading down to Mousehold Avenue.
Image centred on City Hall clocktower.

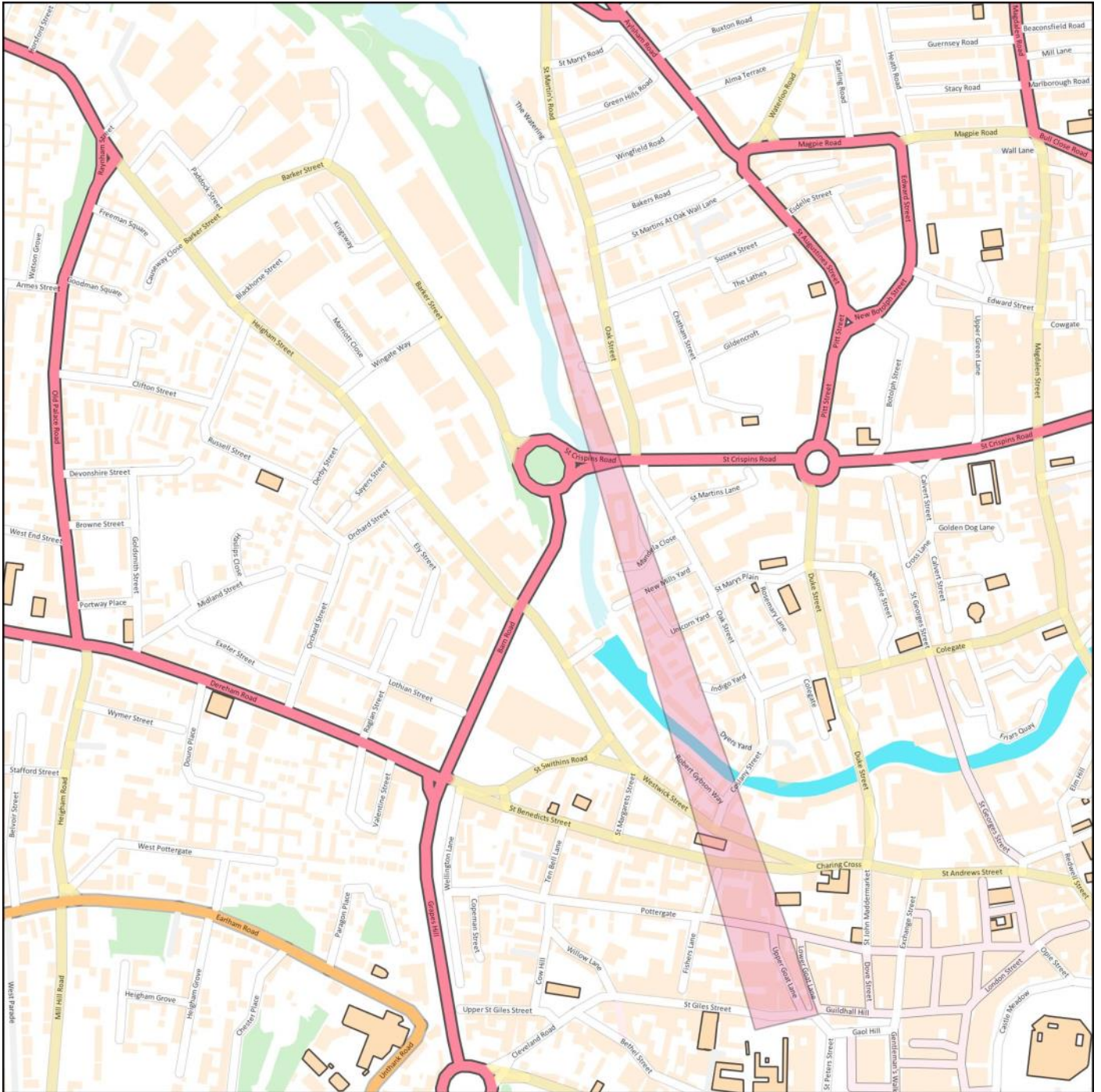


Summer ↑

Winter ↓



4 : Wensum Park towards City Hall



Photographer location : on edge of riverbank.

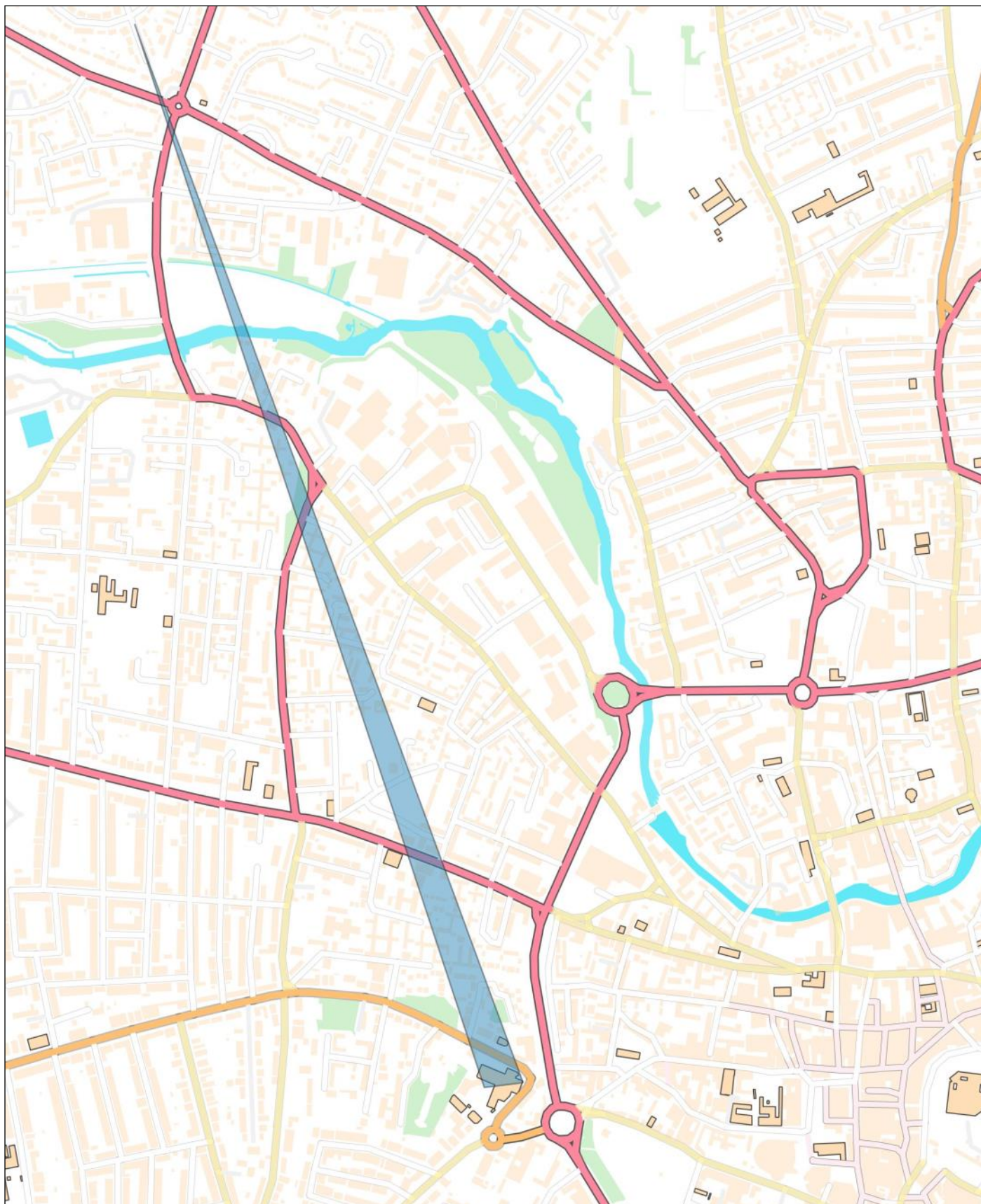


Summer ↑

Winter ↓



5 : Mile Cross - towards the Roman Catholic cathedral



Photographer location : in Soleme Road at junction with Burges Road.



Summer ↑

Winter ↓

